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71
to 80 parts by weight of rubber with 95 to 20 parts by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant amended claims 1 and 4 with a view towards overcoming the formality objections/rejections noted in the Office Action on pages 2 and 3.

Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been cancelled with neither prejudice nor disclaimer whereby any objections to the said claims is now moot.

New claims 9-15 find support in the application as originally filed. These claims include the expression "rubber-containing polymer" as that term would be understood as being part of Applicant's invention in view of the specification at, for instance, page 6, lines 2-12.

Arithmetic errors have been noted in Table 2 of the originally filed application. In Example 5, the maximum difference is from 0.649 to 0.686 because the maximum thickness is 1.74 and the minimum thickness is 1.054, the difference being 0.686. The comparative Example 1 has a maximum difference of 2.048 to 2.062 because the maximum thickness is 3.055 and the minimum thickness is 0.993 (3.055-0.993, which is 2.062). The maximum difference for comparative Example 4 is 1.250 as the maximum thickness is 2.72 and the minimum thickness is 1.022 with the difference being the maximum thickness just stated. The replacement page 25 to the specification, attached, presents the corrected Table 2. The corrections do not involve any new matter and entry of this corrected page to the specification is therefore in order.

Applicant respectfully submit claims 1-8 are each defined novel unobvious inventions over the combination of Hatakeyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,287) in view of Visser (U.S. Patent No. 5,851,606).

The present invention concerns a laminated extruded resin sheet comprised of a methyl methacrylate resin, and more particularly a laminated extruded resin sheet comprised of a methyl methacrylate resin which is subjected to secondary thermoforming and whereby a formed particle having a smaller bias of thickness is obtained. Thus, in general the present invention concerns a laminated extruded resin sheet comprised of a methyl methacrylate resin which may be produced by laminating resin layers (B) on both surfaces of a resin layer (A) by multi-layer extrusion molding. The resin layer (A) may be made as disclosed in the specification. The resin layer (B) is disclosed as being made, for instance, by dispersing uniformly 1 to 50 parts by weight of an insoluble methyl methacrylate resin in particulate form in which the particles have a weight-average particle size of about 1 to about 100 μm based on 100 parts by weight of a base resin comprising a methyl methacrylate resin.

In a preferable embodiment, the laminated extruded resin sheet of the invention has a three-layer structure in which surface layers contain methyl methacrylate resin particles.

The present three-layer structure yields a thermoformed article having a smaller bias of thickness in comparison to one-layer or two-layer structures. This is apparent upon perusal of the present examples versus the comparative examples. Now turning to the references, it may be safely said that the references alone or in combination would not have suggested the present claimed invention to a person having ordinary skill in the art. It is also not evident that the references would have been combined by person(s) of ordinary skill in the art absent foresight gleaned from studying the present application text.

Hatakeyama et al. ('287) discloses an acrylic film having a one-layer structure which imparts a property of acrylic resin to a surface of a mold article produced from ABS resin, polycarbonate (PC) resin and the like. In Hatakeyama et al., the acrylic film having one-layer structure is vacuum molded in a mold, a base resin such as ABS resin or PC resin is successively injected to the mold, and a molded article laminated the acrylic film on the surface of the article of the base resin is obtained.

On the other hand, the acrylic resin sheet of the present invention has a three-layer structure and is produced by a multi-layer extrusion molding method. Further, the acrylic resin sheet of the present invention is secondary thermoformed by itself to obtain a molded article.

Thus, the constitution and the method of use of the acrylic film of Hatakeyama et al. is different from those of the resin sheet of the present invention. Hatakeyama et al. does not also suggest anything about the constitution of the present invention and the effect resulted from it.

Visser ('606) discloses a marble-like acrylic resin sheet having one-layer structure which is used for a bath tub and the like. This acrylic resin sheet is produced by a casting method in which the monomer mixture is poured into a flat glass mold and polymerized to form a sheet. In Visser, the acrylic resin sheet is thermoformed to a shaped article such as a bath tub, and a mixture of glass fibers and liquid polyester resin is sprayed onto the outer surface of the bath tub in order to reinforce the overall strength of the shaped article. It would be reasonable to expect that a bias of thickness of the acrylic resin sheet thermoformed to a bath tub may be large, but Visser does not disclose anything about a bias of thickness.

Thus, the invention disclosed in Visser is different from the present invention, and there is also no description suggesting the constitution of the present invention and the effect resulted from it in Visser.

Applicants accordingly respectfully but sincerely submit that the application should be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, or wishes to offer constructive suggestions with a view toward issuing a Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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